1842
Letter
from
Wilkinson

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS

244

OHIO
Union Village

Second Family – Watervliet – May 8th 1842.

Copy of a Letter received in the name of Jemima Wilkinson, directed to Elder Brother Joseph Hodgson.

Words of the holy Angel to the Writer –

Bow down thy soul at this time & receive the words which I the holy Angel will now read from a sheet written by this beloved one; directed to Elder Brother, for a purpose which will be better known hereafter than at the present time. –

And thus do I commence to read unto thee.

Thus saith the voice of one who hath long desired to speak unto thee, and make known my mind and will unto him who is ever precious in my sight.

Wilt thou receive these my words unto thee and labor to do good unto my poor afflicted people, who wander without

the knowledge of the true Shepherd; who are scattered and made desolate in the gloomy wilds of sin? Wilt thou, when thou canst, seek to do good unto them; and cause them to know of the true & living Shepherd that they may be left without excuse in the day when the Lord will smite the earth in wrath? Wilt thou O thou beloved One seek permission of the holy Anointed Ones, the Ministry, to sound the trumpet of salvation in that desolate place where I the Friend, (for so I called my self,) did live and die?

Wilt thou O my beloved one, cause the truth to be sounded in their ears, for they will believe thee if they will any one? Therefore have I liberty to make known my petition unto thee, to be left to the decision of those whom God in his Wisdom hath appointed to decide all matters of importance.

Long have I been in tribulation

for the little few which remaineth of my people, that there might be some way opened for them who remain in the body to hear the sound of the everlasting Gospel proclaimed in their ears.

And on my hunded knees have I supplicated in prayer to the Blessed Queen of Zion, my ever blessed Mother in the New creation. The Bride, the Lamb's Wife. the Universal Mother & friend of the whole human family who ever become partakers of the second Coming of Christ in his Glory.

Yea say I, many times upon my hunded knees have I plead in behalf of these my poor afflicted children who have hung together upon the strength of the testimony of one whose candle is removed and nought remains but the candlestick, which affords no light.

And this said I to my ever blessed Mother, O my Blessed Mother, look at these my little ones with a look of tender

compassion and let thy mercy be towards them, and cause some way to open for their deliverance; that they in time may hear the sweet sound of salvation and rejoice when they hear of Zion, and know that her King reigneth in his Glory, and that his Bride hath made herself ready and reigneth in the brightness of the Second Coming of the Son of God.

Yea O thou Mother of all! be pleased to condescend in thy mercy and have compassion upon those who still remain of the little few who hold upon the candlestick while her light is extinct.

And thus saith our ever blessed Mother to me: Be thou comforted and I thy Mother will see what I can do for thee!

Arise and go with me and we will see this people, and if I find the marks of sincerity written upon their hearts, & a fervent desire to seek the light & obtain a knowledge of the true and living way

of God, let it come through whom or by whom it may, then will I thy Mother cause some way to open for them.

So accordingly did I in company with my ever blessed Mother and many more Ministering Angels and Spirits go to see the ruins of the old fabrick, to see if there might not be some good timbers which might be brought to Zion and fitted in the new and living building, the Second Temple of the Most High, which is the new Jerusalem, let down from the Throne of God out of heaven, as a Bride adorned for her husband.

Yea did we go to behold the hearts of this people, to see if there remained of the knowledge that sincerity and desire of the way of life, which would entitle them to the special notice of our blessed Mother, sufficient to cause her to open the way for the trumpet of truth to be loudly sounded in their ears.

And thus said our blessed

Mother unto me— So I find sincerity written in this place; and I will cause the trumpet of truth to be sounded which will kindle a fire in the hearts of many which will never be quenched until it hath performed its work, which is to consume the rubbish of a fallen nature, which is hay wood and stubble to the purifying fire of the refiner, the Gospel of the Second Coming of Christ.

And this did I receive the promise in behalf of my people at that time, with encouragement that some way should open by the wisdom of God, place in his holy Anointed on earth, that these afflicted people might hear the sound of the gospel in mercy, and not in judgment: Yea that they might be of the elect, who shall be called from the four corners of the earth by the trumpet of the Son of God, and be gathered before the tempests of his wrath should rend the

earth from pole to pole.

And know thou O my beloved One, that by the liberty and request of our blessed Mother in Union with the holy Savior do I place this letter in thy hands to do with as ye think proper in the time which is to come.

And if the way should ever open for thee, as an individual, to communicate the blessed gospel of salvation to these needy souls, and call them in the Name of Our blessed Mother, as a hen calleth unto her chickens when she seeth the approach of the tempest, know ye, great will be the joy and satisfaction of this thy beloved friend and Sister:

Yea if ye can do good unto them in whatsoever way ye think proper, and by whatever means ye chuse, know ye the blessing of God will attend you.

And this word am I permitted to leave with thee before the communications are

closed that ye may know the feelings of this one and also the mind and will of our blessed Mother who is willing if in union with the leaders of the people that thou shouldst bear on thy mind concerning those of whom thou hast some knowledge, as thou will be more influential and better calculated to gather them and call them by the voice of love and tenderness than those who have had no personal acquaintance with them.

And this is my word unto thee O thou faithful pillar in Zion.

Receive ye the love of one who delighteth in the work of our blessed Mother; which is in calling souls to the gospel & laboring to build up, strengthen and beautify the habitations of Zion in the name of our blessed Mother.

As for me, the friend, (as my people call me even unto this day) I am willing

that all should know; as far as can be communicated in wisdom, that I am the friend to no way or system of religion save that which is in union and according to the doctrines of Christ in his second appearance in and through our ever blessed Mother Ann; of which I Jemima had but the shaddow or forerunner, the resemblance of the way of life.

For lo! When I entered the Eternal world, I found one whose shoe latchets I was not worthy to stoop down and unloose, One who was humbled in to the dust before her God and before his Christ – One who was made perfect through sufferings – One who was no less than the adorned Queen of Zion, a perfect example of meekness, quietness and love; which brought her to the head of the new Creation, in Union with Christ her Lord and head.

And thus did I behold the greater! One who was more humbled in the sight

of her God than was ever Semima.

And with pleasure did I bow at the feet of one who was able to administer the baptism of fire and the holy Ghost, which would cleanse the soul from every kind of dross and make them a new creature in Christ Jesus in spirit and in truth; which would cause them to feel their own nothingness of themselves, and bring down the haughtiness and the high looks of man, that no flesh might glory in the presence of God, save in simple and childlike obedience to his holy order, which he has established with his own right hand, which will stand forever the same unshaken foundation, the eternal Rock of Ages which cannot be removed.

And this leave I upon Record in my Name that all that desire to know how it went with the Friend after she departed this life, may know that I immediately listed under the banner of the lovely Queen of Zion; and I have

done much good in her service and in her Name; And I still remain in the service of my ever blessed Mother, to whom be honor and glory due forever more.

And thus closes my Word unto thee my well beloved friend and affectionate Brother in the Gospel.

Suffer me again to renew my petition concerning my people, who still pin their faith upon the sleeve of one who would thankfully and joyfully lead them to that burning and shining light which would be able to comprehend all darkness, and expose the windings of that crooked nature which is ever at war with the true spirit of Christ, and of itself subject to no law or requirement.

And thus do I seek to close my Word unto thee, with a fervent desire and request that ye would remember my people and do them good whensoever ye can.

SHAKER COLLECTION